

Daniel chapter 8 continues in the spirit of Daniel chapter 7 by expounding upon revealed prophecies, but, utilizing different imagery. Employing **Repeat and Enlarge**, a *Literary Tool and Principle* of Bible prophecy, facts of the world empires, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome are enlarged, and the heavenly court scene of chapter 7 is expounded. Daniel chapter 8 concludes with an in-depth interpretation of the prophecies, conveyed by Gabriel, the Covering Angel, who was sent by God to give Daniel and us, an understanding of His truths.

Two years after the visions described in chapter 7, Daniel, standing on the banks of the River Ulai (Euphrates), was shown another panoramic view of future world events and history. It is significant to note that in chapter 8, the prophecies of world empires begin with the Medo-Persian Empire, though Belshazzar, the last king of the Babylonian Empire was still on the throne. This fact implies that Babylon was not worth mentioning in the tale of nations in that it would soon cease to remain a world power, by consequence of the Medes and Persians. The adjective **great** (*gadal* – Heb) is used to describe each of the nations that follow Babylon. Compare the imagery of the *great* beasts of prey, exhibiting power and might, used in prior prophecies to depict temporal kingdoms, in contrast to the *Lamb of God*, Jesus Christ, Whose Kingdom is eternal! The word "great" in this chapter does not signify physical might however, but rather the spirit of Satan, **self-exaltation and pride**, something particularly detestable to God and intrinsic to all

pagan and humanistic beliefs, explained below (Prov 16:5)

- Man as the center of the universe as opposed to God
- Man's attempts, through the works of his hands, to save himself (Gen 4:1-8, 11:3-5; Exodus 32:1-7; Isa 44:9-20)
- Man's attempts to become a god; striving to reach a higher level of consciousness through his own merits (Gen 3:5; Ezekiel 28:1-18; contrast Jesus in Philip. 2:5-9)

Daniel Chapter 8 highlights the *spiritual dimension*, the *religious doctrine and tenets* of the rising world empires.

Q: How does the Bible describe the kingdom of Medo-Persia? (See Daniel 8:3, 4, 20)

A: Medo-Persia is described as a ram having two horns, one higher than the other, that conquers kingdoms to the north, south, and west

Q: Of its greatness or self-exaltation, how does the Bible describe the Medo-Persian Empire? (See Daniel 8:4)

A: The Medo-Persian Empire is described as "great" (*gadal*)

Q: How does the Bible describe the kingdom of Greece? (See Daniel 8:5-8, 21, 22)

A: Greece is described as a male goat having a notable horn, and flying across the face of the earth against the ram. The notable horn is broken, and four horns arise in its place.

Q: Of its greatness or self-exaltation, how does the Bible describe the Greek empire? (See Daniel 8:8)

A: The Greek Empire is described as "very great" (*gadal*)

The Bible foretells the four-way division of the Greek Empire towards the four directions of the compass after the fall of

its prominent king, Alexander the Great, represented by the broken notable horn (Daniel 8:8; Jeremiah 49:34-38). Before examining the *Little Horn*, let us here examine the prophetic parallels in this and the preceding chapters of Daniel.

God's Eternal Kingdom	Rome (Pagan/ Papal)	Greece	Medo-Persia	Babylon	Empire
Stone cut without men's hands	Legs of iron leading to feet partly of iron & mry clay	Belly and Thighs of Brass	Arms & Torso of Silver	Head of Gold	Daniel 2
An Everlasting Kingdom for the Son of Man	Dreadful beast w/ iron teeth, 10 horns; Rise of Little Horn among the 10 horns	Leopard w/ 4 heads, 4 wings	Bear raised up on one side, w/ 3 ribs in his mouth	Lion w/ eagle's wings	Daniel 7
-----	The daily vs. the Little Horn [conflict of Pagan vs. Papal Rome]	Male goat w/ 1 prominent horn, horn is broken, and 4 horns arise towards 4 winds	Ram w/ 2 horns, one greater than the other pushing [S-Egypt], [N-Babylon], [W-Lydia]	-----	Daniel 8

The rise and origin of the Little Horn in Daniel 8:8, 9 is the source of debate among Bible scholars due to translational challenges when converting from the original Hebrew to the

English language. Grammatically, the pronoun "them" (*hem*-Heb) is masculine, which indicates that the antecedent word is "winds" (*ruwach*- Heb) and not "horns" (*qeren*- Heb) - since the gender of the word "winds" can be either masculine or feminine, but the gender of "horns" is only feminine. On the other hand, the pronoun "one" (*achath*- Heb) is feminine, suggesting "horns" as the preceding word. From this translational challenge, arise two interpretations for the origin of the Little Horn.

The first argument, which establishes that the Little Horn arises from one of the four horns, or divisions of the Greek Empire, commonly associates the Little Horn power with the Seleucid Dynasty King, Antiochus IV Epiphanies (215B.C.-163B.C.). The second interpretation is that it arises from one of the four winds, or from one of the four directions of the compass, and is a power outside of the Greek Empire. Based on historical records and the contextual analysis of parallel prophecies (Daniel 7:2, 3, 6-8), the interpretation of the Little Horn arising from one of the four winds in Daniel chapter 8 is most accurate and reasonable.

Q: Of its greatness or self-exaltation, how does the Bible describe the Little Horn? (See Daniel 8:9)

A: The Little Horn is described as "exceedingly great" (*gadal*)

Unlike God's disclosure of the identity of the Medo-Persian and Greek Empires in the Bible (Dan 8:20-22), no name was provided for the power represented by the Little Horn. This omission was by *Divine Design*. Herein lay a *riddle*, which God has revealed through His Holy Spirit. Consider also that

Visions of Conquest

Daniel Chapter 8 - Part 1 [Based on verses 1-12]



Lesson 19

the narrative speaks of **the daily** and a **Little Horn**, symbolically representing two phases of Rome, both Pagan and Papal Rome respectively [compare the legs of iron to the feet of iron and miry clay in the image of Daniel Chapter 2].

The Prophet Daniel, in the original Hebrew language of verses 9-12, utilized two distinct pronouns in *describing the subject of the verses*, a masculine and a feminine word, that are used to juxtapose the descriptions for *the daily* [paganism - the religion of Pagan Rome] and the Little Horn. The pronoun used in the Hebrew feminine form gives reference to the Little Horn of Daniel 7:8, 24, 25, or the Papal phase of the Roman Empire; whereas the masculine Hebrew pronoun refers to the preceding pagan period of Rome, or *the daily* (ha tamiyd). To distinguish between the two phases of Rome in the Bible verses referenced and explained below, the letter **f** is used prior to the verse to signify feminine, for *Papal Rome*, whereas the letter **m** is used prior to the verse to signify masculine, for *the daily*, or paganism, practiced under Pagan Rome.

Let us briefly consider the works of *the daily* in contrast to the works of the *Little Horn* in Daniel chapter 8 verses 9-12:

1. (**m** - v9) Came from out of the 4 winds of heaven – from the west
2. (**m** - v9) Grew *Exceedingly Great* towards the south, the east, and the Pleasant Land [Palestine]
3. (**f** - v10) Cast down some of the host of heaven, the stars of heaven through persecution (the saints - Ephesians 1:3, 2:6; John 17:14-16; Luke 21:24; Rev 11:1, 2, 13:5-7)

4. (**m** - v11) Exalted himself as high as the Prince of Hosts, Jesus – (See Matthew 2:16; 20:18, 19; 27:21-37)
5. (**m** - v11) By him, the daily (*ha tamiyd*- *paganism*) is lifted up [ruwm - Hebrew root *rum* meaning exalt, raise up, offer, lift up, pick up, take up, serve, elevate, extol]
6. (**m** - v11) The *place* of its sanctuary/temple [the city of Rome; the Pantheon] is cast down [shalak - Heb]
7. (**f** - v12) Through the union of civil government and the church [the sin of *spiritual fornication*], the Little Horn is empowered by a host (armies/militias) (Dan 11:31)
8. (**f** - v12) The Little Horn opposes *the daily* [paganism]
9. (**f** - v12) Casts truth down to the ground and prospered

Notice the juxtaposition between *the daily* and the Little Horn commences with *the daily* (Pagan Rome) subduing three regions – the south, the east, and the Pleasant Land (Daniel 8:9). The three subdued territories are as follows:

1. The land towards the south, primarily Egypt and North Africa, was the remains of Greek General Ptolemy's territory
2. The land towards the east was the sum of Seleucids' territories. Alexander's General Seleucid, shortly after the division of the Greek Empire in four parts, waged war and annexed the territories of another General, Lysimachus, to the west, and a second General, Cassander, to the north



3. The Pleasant Land or Palestine was the land of the people of God, the Jews

Pagan Rome's act of subduing three territories in its ascension was parroted by the Little Horn in uprooting three barbarian tribes in its ascension, namely, the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoths (Daniel 7:8, 24).

The Bible continues to demonstrate the wisdom of God and His love for men through the prophetic revelations of the book of Daniel. Daniel Chapter 8 uncovers the spirit and workings of Satan through the doctrine of **paganism**, the religion for which he is the founder. Paganism, the essence of all false and counterfeit belief systems, exalts the wisdom of men over that of God, the Creator of all things and Architect and Fulfiller of humankind's redemption. The nations described in this chapter, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome were all pagan in their religious practices and demonstrated ever-increasing pride and scorn for the true God and His doctrine. The pagan practices of these kingdoms, however, were in time trumped by a more diabolical force, the *Little Horn*, which excelled in humanistic self-exaltation.

We will continue our exposé of this world power in subsequent studies. Let us continue to study to show ourselves approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15). Grace to all that love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen!

For additional Bible studies or if you have questions, please write or contact: [Life More Abundant](mailto:biblestudies@lifemoreabundantpa.com)
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